

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital image pickup device, comprising:  
an input unit that inputs a photographed digital image;

a predetermined information detector that detects predetermined information;

a predetermined information embedding unit that embeds the detected predetermined information in the digital image; and

a browse restriction applying unit that executes a process for applying browse restriction to the digital image in which the predetermined information is embedded.

2. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 1, comprising:

a communication unit that inquires whether browse restriction is applied or not based upon the detected predetermined information and acquires browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis,

wherein the browse restriction applying unit executes a process for applying browse restriction according to the browse restriction information acquired from the communication unit.

3. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined information is a position

of a photographer or a position of an object.

4. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined information is electronic information of an object.

5. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined information includes Photography time information.

6. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 1, comprising:

a browse restriction controller that manages a browse restriction determination table for determining whether browse restriction is applied or not,

wherein browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis of whether browse restriction is applied or not is acquired based upon the detected predetermined information using the browse restriction determination table; and

the browse restriction applying unit executes a process for applying browse restriction according to the browse restriction information.

7. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 2,

wherein the browse restriction applying unit executes a process for applying browse restriction according to a cipher system defined in the browse

restriction information.

8. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 7,

wherein the cipher system uses fixed information, positional information of a photographer, positional information of an object, electronic information of the object or any of such information and time information.

9. The digital image pickup device according to Claim 2,

wherein a quantity of a process for applying browse restriction is determined according to encryption intensity defined in the browse restriction information.

10. A display device, comprising:

an input unit that inputs a digital image in which predetermined information is embedded and to which browse restriction is applied;

a predetermined information reader that reads the predetermined information;

a communication unit that inquires whether browse restriction can be released or not based upon the read predetermined information and acquires browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis; and

a browse restriction processor that once holds the digital image and executes a process for releasing browse restriction according to the browse restriction information acquired from the communication unit.

11. The display device according to Claim 10,  
wherein the predetermined information is a position  
of a photographer or a position of an object.

12. The display device according to Claim 10,  
wherein the predetermined information is  
electronic information of an object.

13. The display device according to Claim 10,  
wherein the predetermined information includes  
Photography time information.

14. A rights information server, comprising:  
a database that manages a browse restriction  
determination table for determining whether browse  
restriction is applied or not;

a searching/analyzing unit that analyzes whether  
browse restriction can be released or not based upon input  
predetermined information referring to the browse  
restriction determination table and acquires browse  
restriction information which is the result; and

a communication unit that transmits the browse  
restriction information to a unit which inputs the  
predetermined information.

15. The rights information server according to  
Claim 14,

wherein the predetermined information is a position  
of a photographer or a position of an object.

16. The rights information server according to  
Claim 14,

wherein the predetermined information is electronic information of an object.

17. The rights information server according to Claim 14,

wherein the predetermined information includes Photography time information.

18. The rights information server according to Claim 14, comprising:

a predetermined information reader that acquires a digital image to which browse restriction is applied from the communication unit and reads the predetermined information embedded in the digital image; and

a browse restriction processor that acquires browse restriction information based upon the read predetermined information and executes a process for releasing the browse restriction of the digital image according to the browse restriction information.

19. The rights information server according to Claim 14,

wherein the browse restriction determination table also manages a decoding key that can release browse restriction with the decoding key related to information denoting the approval of a browse; and

the decoding key is generated using fixed information, positional information denoting the approval of a browse and electronic information of an object denoting the approval of a browse or using any

of such information and time information.

20. The rights information server according to Claim 14,

wherein the browse restriction determination table manages information showing a cipher system for applying browse restriction with the information related to information denoting the disapproval of a browse; and

the cipher system uses fixed information, positional information denoting the disapproval of a browse and electronic information of an object denoting the disapproval of a browse or uses any of such information and time information.

21. The rights information server according to Claim 20,

wherein the browse restriction determination table manages an encryption level showing a quantity of a browse restriction process with an encryption level related to information denoting the disapproval of a browse.

22. A digital image management system, comprising:  
a digital image pickup device provided with an input unit that inputs a photographed digital image, a predetermined information detector that detects predetermined information, a predetermined information embedding unit that embeds the detected predetermined information in the digital image and a browse restriction applying unit that executes a process for applying browse restriction to the digital image in which the

predetermined information is embedded;

a display device provided with an input unit that inputs the digital image which is output from the digital image pickup device, in which the predetermined information is embedded and to which browse restriction is applied, a predetermined information reader that reads the predetermined information, a communication unit that inquires whether browse restriction can be released or not based upon the read predetermined information and acquires browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis and a browse restriction processor that once holds the digital image and executes a process for releasing browse restriction according to the browse restriction information acquired from the communication unit; and

a rights information server provided with a database that manages a browse restriction determination table for determining whether browse restriction is applied or not, a searching/analyzing unit that analyzes whether browse restriction can be released or not based upon the predetermined information input from the display device referring to the browse restriction determination table and acquires browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis and a communication unit that transmits the browse restriction information to the display device that transmits the predetermined information.

23. The digital image management system according to Claim 22,

wherein the digital image pickup device is provided with a communication unit that inquires of the rights information server whether browse restriction is applied or not based upon the detected predetermined information and acquires browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis; and

the browse restriction applying unit executes a process for applying browse restriction according to the browse restriction information acquired from the communication unit.

24. The digital image management system according to Claim 22,

wherein the digital image pickup device executes a process for periodically acquiring and managing the browse restriction determination table managed by the rights information server and acquiring browse restriction information which is the result of the analysis of whether browse restriction is applied or not based upon predetermined information detected in the digital image pickup device referring to the browse restriction determination table; and

the browse restriction applying unit executes a process for applying browse restriction according to the browse restriction information.

25. The digital image management system according



to Claim 22,

wherein the predetermined information reader and the browse restriction processor which are respectively provided to the display device are provided to the rights information server.

26. A digital image management method,  
wherein in a digital image pickup device that photographs an image digitally, the following steps are executed:

inputting the photographed digital image;  
detecting predetermined information;  
embedding the detected predetermined information in the digital image; and

executing a process for applying browse restriction to the digital image in which the predetermined information is embedded, and

in a display device that displays the digital image, the following steps are executed:

inputting the digital image which is output from the digital image pickup device, in which the predetermined information is embedded and to which browse restriction is applied;

reading the predetermined information;

inquiring of a rights information server that determines whether browse restriction can be released or not based upon the read predetermined information;

acquiring browse restriction information which is

a result of the analysis from the rights information server; and

executing a process for releasing browse restriction in the digital image according to the acquired browse restriction information.

27. The digital image management method according to Claim 26,

wherein in the digital image pickup device, the following steps are executed:

inquiring of the rights information server whether browse restriction is applied or not based upon the detected predetermined information;

acquiring browse restriction information which is a result of the analysis from the rights information server; and

executing a process for applying browse restriction according to the acquired browse restriction information.

28. The digital image management method according to Claim 26,

wherein in the digital image pickup device, the following steps are executed:

periodically acquiring and managing the browse restriction determination table managed by the rights information server and acquiring browse restriction information which is the result of the analysis of whether browse restriction is applied or not based upon the

predetermined information detected in the digital image pickup device referring to the browse restriction determination table; and

executing a process for applying browse restriction according to the browse restriction information.

29. The digital image management method according to Claim 26,

wherein a step for reading the predetermined information and a step for executing a process for releasing the browse restriction of the digital image according to the browse restriction information, which are respectively executed in the display device, are executed by the rights information server.